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**SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD
VINDICATED**

A REVIEW

OF

**The Right Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright's
Reminiscences**

BY

SIR JOSEPH POPE, K.C.M.G.

PRICE 25c.

**THE PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, LIMITED
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RT. HON. SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT

REMINISCENCES

By

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT,
G.C.M.G., P.C.

THIS book is not aptly named. By *Reminiscences* of a public man, is commonly understood a chatty narration of past events—a recital of what happened during a stated period, and of the narrator's share therein. The volume under consideration is rather an *Apologia*,—a justification of Sir Richard Cartwright's public career, accompanied by a denunciation of all who presumed to differ from him. Much of it suggests the decrees of a Pontiff defining things to be believed under pain of censure, and this impression is heightened by the catechetical form in which the credenda are proclaimed.

This style, however, though at times irritating, is not without its compensations. It is always refreshing to find a man who is not afraid to give clear-cut expression of his views upon men and things, and the pleasure is enhanced when, as in the present case, these views are presented in the terse and vigorous Saxon which Sir Richard knew so well how to employ. There never is any doubt as to his meaning—no small advantage in this age of qualifications and refinements. He has sketched lightly, with a bold, if careless, hand, the broad outlines of Canadian history between the years 1863 and 1896. The state of the country when he entered Parliament—the fierce struggles between political parties

—Confederation—the acquisition of the North West—the Riel uprisings—the Canadian Pacific Railway—the National Policy; and—with the exception of one commanding figure—the public men of those days are all depicted with reasonable fidelity, and in a style which, for clearness and finish, if not for accuracy, it would be hard to excel. The exception is, of course, Sir John Macdonald—the villain of the piece—who is treated throughout with a malignant unfairness unworthy of a gentleman possessing the character and attainments of Sir Richard Cartwright. Sir John's motives are misrepresented—his very few mistakes magnified and distorted—his fewer failings grossly exaggerated—and, only towards the end of the book, after the victim has been tried, condemned and executed, is there a pretence of fair play.

To begin at the beginning. Sir Richard Cartwright speaks of the "Double Shuffle" as a piece of "sharp practice" (p. 10), "gross unfairness" (p. 11), "notorious" (p. 302), and so on. He does not tell us that, though not in Parliament at the time, he was Sir John's follower then and for long afterwards, nor that that tower of virtue, Mr. Gladstone, thirteen years later, did very much the same thing as that for which Sir John is here so severely censured. The gravamen of Sir John's offence in the affair of the "Double Shuffle" was generally held to consist in swearing to perform the duties of an office which he had accepted to get round a technicality, and which he knew he was not going to hold for any length of time. Mr. Gladstone apparently did not share the "very unfavourable impression" which Sir Richard says (p. 11) Sir John's action produced, for, in 1871, in order to qualify Sir Robert Collier, his Attorney-General, for a seat on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (appointments to which were restricted to those who had previously held judicial office), he nominated him a justice of the Court of Common Pleas in which Sir Robert took his seat, forthwith resigned, and went on the Judicial Committee.

To take another charge—that of "making a corrupt bargain

with Sir Hugh Allan for the sale of the Canadian Pacific Charter" (p. 303)—Sir Richard assumes Sir John's guilt throughout. The culprit was caught "red-handed" (p. 111). There are no extenuating circumstances. Yet Sir Richard had before him when he wrote, Sir John's solemn declaration to Lord Dufferin:

"To sum up this matter shortly. I would repeat that Sir Hugh Allan was informed, before he subscribed a farthing, that his railway company would not get the privilege of building the railway. He was informed that that work would only be entrusted to an amalgamated company, under the terms of the Act passed by Parliament; that such amalgamation would be effected on terms fair to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, as agreed upon between the representatives of the two rival companies; and that such amalgamation would only take place after the elections."*

A fair-minded man would surely have referred to this. To show that in dealing with this incident in Sir John's career, Sir Richard was dominated by his personal feelings, it is only necessary to allude to his attitude towards Sir Georges Cartier in regard to this subject. The story of the C. P. R. "scandal," or "slander," as it is variously styled, is a long one, and cannot be gone into here, but I may just observe that, putting things at their worst, Sir Georges Cartier was at least equally "implicated" with Sir John. It was Cartier, not Sir John, who primarily and principally carried on the "negotiations" with Sir Hugh Allan. Yet, in telling the story, Sir Richard does not, I think, even once mention Cartier's name, and certainly nowhere visits him with any of that censure which he so liberally pours out upon Macdonald.

The foregoing is perhaps nothing more than ungenerous, but there is worse behind. When, after accepting office in 1873, Sir Richard sought re-election in Lennox, he sent Sir John a challenge to be present at the nomination, offering, at the same time, to pay his travelling expenses to Napanee and return to

* Pope's "Memoirs of Sir John Macdonald," (Vol. 2, p. 189).

Hapauni

Nov 26/73

To Sir John A Macasuaana
Dear Sir John

I am desired
by Mr Bartwright to enclose
you cheque for \$40 in ful-
filment of his promise to pay
your expenses here and back
Should this sum be in-
sufficient have the kindness
to advise me.

your obed^t servant
A. L. Coades

Letter from Bank Manager accompanying the famous cheque.

No A 07385
 Agency of the
 Bank of British North America
 Pay Sir John A. Macdonald or ~~order~~
 City _____ Dollars
 \$40⁰⁰/₁₀₀
 H. Z. Geddes
 Nov-26th 1873
 NAPANEE, ~~Ont.~~ Ont.

Cheque sent Sir John A. by Mr. Cartwright and never cashed.

Ottawa. Of this incident Sir Richard says in his book (p. 136), "Sir John accepted the challenge and the cheque, and we met accordingly." The plain inference here is that Sir John accepted from Sir Richard the money which the cheque represents, but such is not the case.

Shortly after his return to Ottawa, Sir John received this letter:

"Napanee, Nov. 26, '73.

"To Sir John A. Macdonald,

"Dear Sir John.—I am desired by Mr. Cartwright to enclose you cheque for \$40 in fulfilment of his promise to pay your expenses here and back. Should this sum be insufficient, have the kindness to advise me.

"Your obedient servant,

"H. L. GEDDES."

This, in the circumstances, was an insult, and no doubt was intended as such. Sir John no more accepted the cheque than Henry V. accepted the Dauphin's gift of tennis balls, and equally resented the "bitter mock." He put the letter and enclosure in an envelope; endorsed it, "Lennox Election, 1873, cheque \$40 from R. J. Cartwright," and placed it with his correspondence, where it remains to this day. It is difficult to understand how Sir Richard could have forgotten that the cheque was never cashed, the more so in that shortly after Sir John's death, the Bank was applied to, to refund the money "to the owner."

With all deference to Sir Richard Cartwright,—and I confess to a certain regard for him,—he would surely have done well, before publishing grave charges against an opponent long since dead, to have gone to the trouble of verifying his statements. Instead of this, he has been content to rely upon his own recollections, with disastrous results to his reputation as an historian.

Everyone knows how treacherous is memory after the lapse of years—how little to be trusted. Yet Sir Richard never seems to

Kingston 10th Jan^y 1893

Joseph Pope Esq
Ottawa

Dear Sir,

On or about 26th Nov^r 1843 our
Hapance Agency marked good a cheque
of ~~Mr~~ Geddes \$40. which has since
been outstanding. It appears that
this money belonged to another party,
that the cheque was one sent to the late
Sir John Macdonald as a tender of expenses
+ an invitation or challenge to appear
+ stand at a political meeting, which,
Sir John declined to do, he is said to
have destroyed the cheque -

The publishing of the amount in the
Statement to Government of unclaimed
balances has reminded the parties
of the circumstances & the Bank is now
asked to refund the money to the owner
on the order of Mr Geddes &c.

Would you kindly write me whether
there is any likelihood of the original -
cheque not having been destroyed on
being still among the late Sir John's
papers & much oblige,

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Robinson
Manager

have taken the trouble to ascertain whether or not the picture in his mind of a certain occurrence was true or otherwise. He apparently considered that the fact of his having made a charge, precluded all further controversy. Passing over his shameful accusation of misconduct on the part of Sir John towards H.R.H. the Princess Louise, which the Duke of Argyll has fittingly disposed of by a single word, I select a few instances, some of them of little intrinsic importance, to illustrate how completely Sir Richard ignored the cardinal maxim, "always verify your quotations."

It is related of General Ben Butler that when he occupied New Orleans in the course of the Civil War, he issued an order forbidding all citizens to have weapons in their possession. A young man, who was brought before the General charged with having a sword in his house, pleaded that it was not regarded by him as weapon of offence, or defence, but was preserved as an heirloom, having belonged to his father. "When did your father die, sir?" demanded the general. "In 1858," replied the young man. "Then he must have worn this sword in hell, sir," replied Butler, "for it was made in 1859."

Sir Richard, if he ever heard this story, signally failed to profit by it.

What, for example, can be more glaring than his statement that certain of Sir John's partisans in the press, and out of it, had the supreme impudence to allege that "the sending out a Governor closely connected by marriage with the Royal family . . . was done by way of special compliment to Sir John." (p. 211.)

Look at the dates. The Mackenzie Government was defeated at the polls on the 17th September, 1878. Sir John took office on the 18th October, 1878. The appointment of Lord Lorne as Governor-General of Canada was announced in the *Times* of the 29th July, 1878, and in the press of Canada on the following day—nearly three weeks before the old Parliament was dissolved, when Sir Richard Cartwright was firmly entrenched in office and Sir John was leading a forlorn opposition.

Sir Richard seems to have had Sir John on the brain to such an extent that he sometimes imagined occurrences which it can be demonstrated had no existence in fact. Thus, he writes with reference to Mr. Blake's great speech on Riel's execution:

"It was, in short a speech which no man in the House except Mr. Blake could have made and which on such an occasion no man but Mr. Blake would ever have made. The effect produced on his audience may be best judged from one simple fact. I was sitting directly opposite to Sir John all through the harangue, and I had noticed at the outset that he was plainly nervous. As Mr. Blake proceeded I observed that Sir John grew more and more at ease, and at last I saw him turn round to one of his colleagues seemingly much amused. Mr. Blake had then been speaking about two hours, and the Chamber was very crowded and the atmosphere very close. Glancing round I saw that our friends were all, as in duty bound, in solid phalanx in their places, but also, alas, that the majority of them were fast asleep. Knowing that if this circumstance came to Mr. Blake's notice he was quite capable of flinging down his manuscript and leaving the House, I succeeded in passing a note to one of our whips begging him to wake up the delinquents with all speed, but you may imagine how seven hours of such a disquisition was likely to affect the ordinary hearer. As it was, after Mr. Girouard had replied in an effort of eight hours' duration, principally composed of traversing Mr. Blake's speech paragraph by paragraph, the whole life had gone out of the debate, and no power on earth could revive it." (pp. 265-6).

Hansard shows that Mr. Blake delivered this speech on Friday the 19th March, 1886. Will it be believed that Sir John was not in the House of Commons on that day? For some little time before, he had been confined to his house by illness. A reference to my shorthand note books shows that on the day of Mr. Blake's speech he wrote thus to his friend John McIntyre, Esq., K.C., of Kingston:

"Ottawa, 19th March, 1886.

"My dear McIntyre

"I have yours of the 18th. I am still a little under the weather but hope to be able to resume my place in the House next Monday, etc.

"In haste

"Yours sincerely.

"JOHN A. MACDONALD."

Sir Richard probably had in mind a similar story of Pitt's demeanour on the occasion of Erskine's attack upon him, and in some extraordinary fashion associated it with Sir John and Mr. Blake. Moreover, Mr. Girouard did not reply to Mr. Blake. Mr. Girouard did not speak until the 24th March, and then he did not reply to Mr. Blake nor traverse the latter's speech, for he supported Mr. Blake's view and voted with him. It was Sir John Thompson who replied to Mr. Blake.

Again: Sir Richard says that Sir John was so disturbed by Riel's first rebellion and its consequences, that "in an evil hour," "and for no better reason than to draw a red herring across the trail" (p. 93), "he bethought himself of incorporating British Columbia" into the Union. Once more look at the dates. The Red River trouble began in December, 1869, and culminated in March, 1870, with the murder of Scott. Now, in my *Memoirs of Sir John Macdonald* (Vol. 2, pp. 143-4) there is a letter from Sir John to the Governor-General, dated the 25th May, 1869, or nearly a year before the Scott murder, which shows that Sir John was then, and had been for some time previously, actively engaged in negotiating for the entrance of British Columbia into the Union. Manifestly his actions in May, 1869, could not have been influenced by what happened nearly a year later.

Of what value are "Reminiscences" such as these?

Sir Richard says (p. 41) that in the Parliament of 1863-7, Sir John was completely overshadowed by George Brown, who in

19th Sept 1841

Frederick Douglass

Dear Madam

I see you have again
in the important motion you
have just made, given us
full precedence over me this
is in direct opposition to the
agreement on which I entered
the for. - I with thirty-four
of my party supporting the
Resolutions, I think it particular
offensive. Of course, I only
call your attention to it
I am unfortunately in a
position that compels me
to submit to these small
efforts. But at least I
shall not swallow them without
letting you know that I see
you. Yours truly E. W. Brown

A letter from Mr. George Brown to Sir John A., showing very
plainly who "dominated" the situation.

1865 had become virtually the leader of the House. Does this letter, written on the 13th March, 1865, confirm Sir Richard's recollection? Does it not rather show conclusively that Macdonald was the leader and Brown the follower?

“(Private and Confidential)

“Quebec, Monday.

“Dear Macdonald,

“I see you have again, in the important motion you have just made, given Mr. Galt precedence over me. This is in direct opposition to the agreement on which I entered the Government—and with thirty-four of my party supporting the Resolutions, I think it particularly offensive. Of course, I only call your attention to it. I am unfortunately in a position that compels me to submit to these small affronts. But, at least, I shall not swallow them without letting you know that I see them.

“Yours truly,

“GEO. BROWN.”

I do not for a moment seek to disparage Mr. Brown's claim to recognition. He undoubtedly played a patriotic part in uniting with Sir John in 1864. I agree with Sir Richard that, but for Mr. Brown's disinterested action in 1865, Confederation might have been long deferred. But, although a man of ability, George Brown was too headstrong and impulsive to be a successful leader of men. It is but his due, however, to say that during his association with Sir John Macdonald he played fair (albeit a little sulkily at times) and does not deserve, any more than Sir John, the full application of Goldwin Smith's cynical observation, that the alliance between Brown and Macdonald “was as brief and perfidious as a harlot's love.”

Sir Richard states that Sir John was very unpopular with his party in 1864, and that a movement was set on foot to displace him in favour of Sir A. Campbell, but the conspiracy failed “and there was no alternative but to send for Sir John” (p. 36).

The same thing is said to have happened in 1865, only on that occasion the supplanter was Mr. Cartier, but Sir John was such a "crafty intriguer," that the movement again crumbled and once more he assumed his triumphant sway. Thus, though "oft doomed to death, the milk white hind was fated not to die." Sir John, for a "dissipated," "unpopular" and "discredited" politician, seems to have had a remarkable run of luck in those days!

And, for all this, Sir Richard does not adduce a syllable of proof, beyond his mere word! That there was a slight misunderstanding between Sir John and Sir Alexander Campbell in 1864, is true, and something of the kind at which Sir Richard hints did occur. It is also true that Sir John and Sir Alexander were not kindred spirits, but any want of cordiality between them was on personal grounds, and politically they were always (save perhaps for the brief interval of 1864, to which I have referred) closely united. As regards Sir Georges Cartier, there is no trace of any serious disagreement prior to 1868, and that little misunderstanding (which arose out of circumstances over which Sir John had no control) was soon cleared up. Sir John at all times fully recognized and appreciated Cartier's worth. Often I have heard him say that but for Cartier Confederation could not have been carried. He was, moreover, genuinely attached to his French-Canadian colleague. On the occasion of the unveiling of Cartier's monument at Ottawa on the 29th January, 1885, he declared with much feeling, "I loved him when he was living—I regretted and wept for him when he died."

Sir Richard repeats once more, what he has said so often that no doubt he came to believe it, that Sir John was not originally in favour of Confederation. This, in face of the fact that Sir John was a leading member of a Government that, so far back as 1859, caused these words to be inserted in the Queen's speech:

"The possibility of uniting, by some tie of a federal character

the British Colonies in North America, has formed the subject of correspondence, which will be placed in your hands.”*

That in the same year this Government, he being still a member thereof, despatched a mission to England to ascertain the views of Her Majesty’s Government on the subject of a Union of the British North American Provinces:

That from his place in Parliament on the 19th April, 1861, he declared that “the only feasible scheme which presents itself to my mind as a remedy for the evils complained of is a Confederation of all the Provinces,” and much more to the same effect.

Sir Richard asserts that Sir John was not a Protectionist until after 1873, though he could not possibly avoid having known that so long before as 1846, Sir John advocated protection to native industries; that in 1850 he belonged to an association one of whose chief aims was to promote a “commercial national policy.” In 1858 he was a member of an administration whose Inspector-General of Finance announced protection to native industries as the policy of the Government. In the General Election of 1861, he, at various times and places, explained and defended this policy. Lastly on the eve of the general election of 1872, seven years before the introduction of the National Policy, Sir John wrote:

“At the hustings in Western Canada and in all the constituencies, except Toronto, the battle will be between free trade and a national policy. The farmers are indignant at the Opposition having taken the duty off American cereals last session, and they all say, and say truly, that if I had been there instead of at Washington, it would not have occurred. It is really astonishing, the feeling that has grown up in the west in favour of encouraging home manufactures.”

It will be observed that these views of Sir John Macdonald, expressed in 1846, 1850, 1858, 1861 and 1872, are in close agreement with the position taken by him in regard to protection to native industries between 1873 and his death in 1891, and when

* Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, 1859 (page 10).

it can be shown that the opinion held by a man at thirty-one, was his opinion at thirty-five, at forty-three, at forty-six, at fifty-seven, at sixty-four and at seventy-six, it is, I think, not unreasonable to assume that he maintained it unchanged through life.

Nor is this carelessness confined to those portions of the "Reminiscences" which treat of Sir John Macdonald. Other evidences of haste abound. For instance, Sir Richard says (p. 142) that the late M. C. Cameron, "afterwards Chief Justice," voted against Riel's expulsion from the House of Commons in 1874. Now Mr. Cameron did nothing of the kind, for the very good reason, among others, that he was not a member of the House of Commons at the time, and, indeed, never sat in the Parliament of the Dominion. Sir Richard had only to turn up journals of the House of Commons for the 16th April, 1874, to see that the Cameron who voted against the expulsion of Riel was Malcolm Cameron, commonly known under the sobriquet of "the Coon"—a very different person from the late Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Sir Etienne Taché is alluded to as Sir Elzear Taché (p. 361),—nay, the very dedication of the book contains an error. The celebrated saying, *Dilexi justitiam et odivi iniquitatem: propterea morior in exilio*, is universally ascribed, not to Dante, but to Pope Gregory VII—the famous Hildebrand. But enough of this.

"Cartwright," once observed Sir John, "never had any adequate reason for his hatred of me. His attitude is quite inexplicable."

The private correspondence which passed between the two quite bears out this view, and while it does not agree with Sir Richard's statement that he entered public life as an "independent Conservative," neither does it disclose any particular grounds of animosity. The occasion of the rupture between the two men is to be found in Sir John taking Sir Francis Hincks into his cabinet in 1869. Sir Richard objected to this step in a manly,

straightforward manner, though on grounds quite different from those set forth in his "Reminiscences," which curiously enough are the very ones urged by Sir John as a reason for his selection of Sir Francis. Sir Richard's letter severing his party allegiance is dated the 12th October, 1869. Sir John's reply, an extract from which will be found in my *Memoirs of Sir John Macdonald*, Vol. 2, Appendix xx. (pp. 314-6) is dated the 17th November, 1869, and this is followed by a rejoinder from Sir Richard, in which he says:

"I am most especially desirous that the present political difficulty may not be pushed into any personal antagonism to yourself. If I am wrong in my view of the situation, my opposition will do you little harm—if I am right, it will probably be better it should come from a quarter friendly to yourself personally."

Yet within a short period we find Sir Richard publicly denouncing Sir John in terms of utmost personal rancour, an attitude which he maintained until the day of his death—and after.

Those who knew Sir John Macdonald in the flesh will not be surprised to learn that he by no means reciprocated the bitter feelings which Sir Richard Cartwright entertained towards him. While naturally he could not be expected to cherish any very warm regard for one who never lost an opportunity of reviling him, Sir John was always ready to acknowledge Sir Richard's good points, and to set down his extraordinary animosity to an idiosyncrasy foreign to his real nature. An instance of this occurs to me. Discussing one day the composition of a House Committee of Enquiry, he expressed his satisfaction that Sir Richard was thereon, for, said he, "Cartwright is a gentleman," implying that he would not be a party to any injustice. Again, when in 1884 Erastus Wiman wrote Sir John that he had knowledge of a dark plot being hatched with the object of detaching Manitoba from the British Crown by an armed revolt, and that Mr. Blake and Sir Richard Cartwright were privy thereto, Sir John replied:

"I don't believe a word of his statement about Mr. Blake and Sir Richard Cartwright. The latter has expressed his belief in the future independence of Canada, but that is all. Neither of them would countenance for a moment anything like a rising in arms."

I shall never forget the grim smile he wore as he finished dictating the above, nor his remark—"this is a new rôle for me, defending Cartwright." Indeed, Sir John, apart from the fact that he was constitutionally incapable of resentment such as Sir Richard's, considered it extremely bad policy. "So and So," he said to me one day, "is governed entirely by his hates, a fatal mistake in a public man"; and again, "a public man should have no resentments."

I do not know how it may have been originally, but in my time I think Sir Richard's ferocious antipathy rather amused Sir John, who used laughingly to speak of it as an "obsession."

I have dwelt at some length on the relations between Sir John and Sir Richard, both because they form the *pièce de résistance* of the "Reminiscences," and because they are the points about which I am best qualified to speak. Of his estimate of Sir John's colleagues so far as it is possible to consider it apart from Sir John himself, they strike me as, with certain exceptions, fair. The trouble is that Sir Richard experienced the same difficulty as Mr. Dick laboured under when writing his history. Charles the First's head got into everything. So is it in these "Reminiscences." Sir Richard cannot keep Sir John out. To such lengths does he carry this, that Cartier, Campbell, Brown and Galt are all made to play somewhat more important rôles than they actually filled, in order to detract from Sir John's pre-eminence.

Of Sir Richard's estimate of his own colleagues prior to 1877, I am not so well qualified to speak, but in the main it agrees with my own limited knowledge of the men.

Mr. Mackenzie, though deficient in many qualities of a leader,

was an upright, prudent and capable Minister with an unfortunate manner, which at times tended to obscure his sterling worth.

Sir Richard speaks highly of Mr. Blake's intellectual powers. He was in truth a giant among men, with a high sense of honour, and, so far as an outsider can judge, the last man in the world to be guilty of the charge of "treachery," which Sir Richard levels at him.

There remains one outstanding feature of Sir Richard's book, which the reader cannot fail to have observed—his antipathy to the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia—the "shreds and patches of the Dominion," as he once, in his haste, called them. He seems to have regarded them, one and all, as a set of cormorants preying on the Dominion Treasury. It is quite evident from his speeches and writings that he was no warm supporter of the Greater Canada. His Dominion would probably have consisted of two provinces—Ontario and Quebec—if indeed he would have included the French province. From first to last he was an Ontario man.

To do justice to Sir Richard Cartwright, one must consider him entirely apart from his *bête noire*. Sir Richard was a man of signal ability, high culture and much reading. His Parliamentary style, though abounding in invective, was otherwise wholly admirable in point of form. He was one of the very few members whose speeches could be printed as they fell from their lips.

As his generous antagonist said of him, Sir Richard was—save as regards Sir John himself—emphatically "a gentleman." Perhaps no better evidence can be adduced of this than his treatment of his subordinates. To them he was invariably courteous, considerate and kind, a fact of which I have had personal experience. He was also, I understand, a chivalrous opponent, who always "played the game." Though fierce in declamation, he seldom allowed political differences to interfere with his social relations. I have heard him "breathing out threatenings and slaughter" towards men who might be so unfortunate as to displease him,

but it was all a *façon de parler* and I never believed he would hurt a fly.

I realize that all this is quite inconsistent with what has gone before, but the inconsistency is not in me. I speak of Sir Richard Cartwright as I found him, and I know I voice the sentiments of those members of the Civil Service with whom he had official relations.

I cannot help thinking that his friends have done his memory scant justice in allowing the publication of this volume, which, bearing every mark of haste and of ill-considered judgment, cannot but derogate from the reputation of a distinguished name.



FROM *The Toronto Globe*, 2ND DECEMBER, 1912.

PRINCESS LOUISE AND SIR JOHN MACDONALD

To the Editor of *The Globe*: With reference to the statement in Sir Richard Cartwright's recently-published volume of "Reminiscences," to the effect that Sir John Macdonald on a state occasion was guilty of unpardonable rudeness towards the Princess Louise, I have to request that you would be so good as to give publicity to the following letters which passed between her Royal Highness and Sir John, together with the requisite authority for their publication.

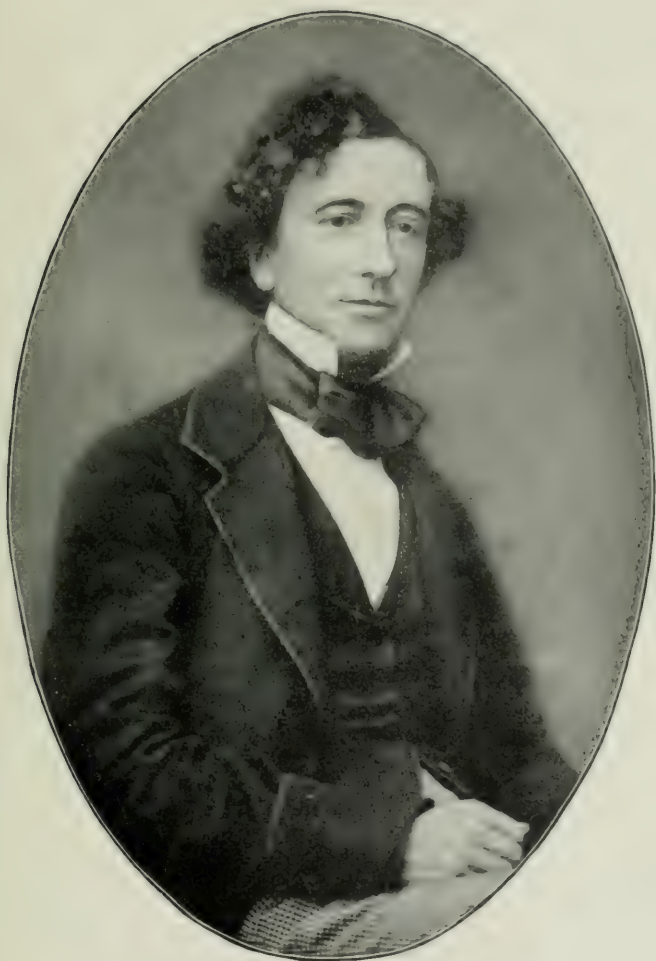
The occasion of this correspondence was a series of attacks upon Lady Macdonald, which appeared in certain United States journals of a highly sensational type, to the effect that the Prime Minister's wife had made herself so objectionable to the Princess as to compel her Royal Highness to take refuge in Bermuda, whither she had gone for her health:—

Government House, Ottawa, November 28, 1912.

Dear Sir Joseph Pope.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught desires me to write and say that he has received from H.R.H. the Princess Louise full authorization for you to publish certain letters which passed between her Royal Highness and the late Sir John Macdonald in the year 1883, copies of which letters you have shown to His Royal Highness. Believe me, yours sincerely,

H. C. LOWTHER, Lieut.-Col., Military Secretary.

Sir Joseph Pope, K.C.M.G., etc.



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

From a hitherto unpublished photograph taken in 1842

H. M. S. Dido, January 25, 1883.

Dear Sir John,—I have been wanting to write to you ever since I saw those ill-natured articles in the papers against Lady Macdonald and myself, but his Excellency thought as they were such preposterous inventions that I should leave it alone. Now that you have written to Col. de Winton, I cannot help sending you a few lines, having received so much kindness from you and Lady Macdonald ever since I first came to Canada, and I have learned to look upon you both as friends that I made out there. It is, therefore, most annoying to me that such stories should have been circulated. To invent that I have had a misunderstanding with your wife vexes me beyond measure.

You must know in how many ways I admire Lady Macdonald and think her a worthy example to every wife. I hope your health is quite restored. Believe me, with kind remembrances to Lady Macdonald, yours very sincerely.

LOUISE.

Stadacona Hall, Ottawa, February 20, 1883.

Madam,—I am honoured by the receipt of your gracious note and can assure your Royal Highness that I gratefully appreciate its kind condescension.

Your high position, while it does not altogether shield you from the base attacks of a degraded press, renders them powerless for harm and your Royal Highness can afford to treat them with the contempt they deserve.

It is otherwise with Lady Macdonald, who has already proofs that these calumnies have been widely disseminated and that some people have been willing to believe them simply because she happens to be my wife.

Lady Macdonald feels especially aggrieved at the imputation cast upon her of having failed in respect and duty towards your Royal Highness, from whom she has received such unvarying kindness. Both she and I are, however, more than compensated for the annoyance by the gracious letter sent us by Col. de Winton,

and we hope in good time to have the opportunity of personally tendering you our best thanks. I have the honour to be, madam, your Royal Highness' grateful and obedient servant.

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The above letter of her Royal Highness was written at a period subsequent to the occasion indicated by Sir Richard Cartwright as that on which the supposititious offence was committed. It is published to illustrate the character of the relations which subsisted between her Royal Highness and Sir John Macdonald, during the whole period of Lord Lorne's administration in Canada. Is it not inconceivable that a lady should use towards a man who had grossly insulted her terms such as those which her Royal Highness employs in addressing Sir John Macdonald, whom, we have every reason to believe, she honoured with her friendship and regard—a regard and friendship ever cordially and respectfully reciprocated? Your obedient servant. JOSEPH POPE.

Ottawa, November 29, 1912.

On the 30th November, the Montreal *Star* cabled the Duke of Argyll in these words:

"Cartwright's Memoirs just out say Sir John Macdonald on unfriendly terms, Princess Louise, last two years, her stay, owing affront put on her by Macdonald."

To which His Grace replied:

Kensington Palace, Thursday.

Rubbish,

ARGYLL.

UTL AT DOWNSVIEW



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